Budget Earmarked for Sports

1613. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total Central Budget and Budget for HRD earmarked for sports;

(b) the percentage of total Eighth Plan and that of HRD in the Eighth Plan earmarked for sports;

(c) whether the amount is sufficient to develop sports in the country;

(d) whether sports have been given low priority in the schools and colleges; and

(e) if not, the present status of sports in schools and colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN): (a) The sports budget is about 0.036% of the total Central Budget and about 1.63% of the total Budget for HRD, as per the Budget Estimates of 1996-97.

(b) About 0.08% of total Eighth Plan allocation and about 0.90% of HRD allocation had been earmarked for sports during the Eighth Plan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) the Central Government attaches a very high priority to sports in schools and Colleges. As per the recommendations of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE), the State Govts/UTs have been advised to integrate sports and physical education with the educational system.

Catering in South Central Railway

1614. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a system for better catering in South Central Railways;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present system of catering has not been up to the mark;

(c) whether any positive action has been taken to improve catering on a time-bound programme; and

(d) if so, the details of such a schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Improvement in Catering services is an ongoing process.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Measures taken by the SC Railway to improve quality of catering services include,—procurement of raw materials through standard sources, induction of professional Caterers, training of catering staff, rotation of menu, surprise checks/opinion polls and deterrent action against staff/contractors at fault.

Filling-up of vacancies in Bal Bhawan

1615. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bal Bhawan Society India invited applications in July, 1996 to fill up certain posts of Clerk-cum-Typists;

(b) if so, the number of applications received and the number of them found in order;

(c) whether the Bal Bhawan Society India has 50 posts in its organisation to fill up;

(d) whether any criteria and time schedule have been laid down for such selection; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Applications for filling in vacant posts, including five posts of Lower Division Clerks, were invited in June, 1996.

(b) A total of 2829 applications were received for the posts of Lower Division Clerk of which 405 applicants were short-listed for written test. The posts of Lower Division Clerk have since been filled-up.